

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended. The specification is amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 10 and 11 are added. No new matter is added.

I. Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Tran during the interview held July 26, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,700,287 to Ohmura et al. (Ohmura). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ohmura fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Ohmura fails to disclose a rotary electric machine, comprising . . . an armature core formed by laminating a plurality of core sheets, each core sheet having a center hole and outer holes connected to the center hole, as recited in claim 1.

Ohmura relates to a core of a motor having a plurality of core sheets stacked together (col. 1, lines 15-18). The core sheets 22 make up the core 21. Each core sheet 22 includes an inner annular portion 23 and an outer annular portion 24. A rotatable shaft securing hole 28 is formed on the center of the annular portion 23. Four window openings 26, which act as empty through holes, are placed in a space located between the inner annular portion 23 and the outer annular portion 24. As shown in Fig. 3A, the inner angular portion 23 is connected to the outer annular portion 24 through four stays 27 (col. 5, lines 20-44). Each of the embodiments of Ohmura show a similar configuration of the core sheet (see for example

Figs. 2A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 6, 7A, 8A-10B). Thus, Ohmura fails to show that the center hole 28 and the windows which form the outer holes 26 are connected to the center hole.

Rather, as discussed during the interview, Ohmura merely discloses that the inner annular portion 23 is connected to the outer annular portion 24 through the stays 27. In other words, it is only the described areas of the core sheet 22 which are interconnected. There is no connectivity between the inner and outer holes of Ohmura as alleged in the Office Action. However, the claims are amended to more clearly distinguish over the reference as agreed during the interview. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ohmura in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,489,249 to Olivier; and claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ohmura and Olivier in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,650,683 to Shiga et al. (Shiga). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, as neither Olivier or Shiga disclose or suggest a core sheet having a center hole and outer holes connected to the center holes, the combination of references fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims

Claim 10 is allowable over the applied references because the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest a rotary electric machine comprising: a housing; and an armature having a shaft rotatably supported in the housing and an armature core fixedly connected to the shaft, wherein: the armature core is formed by laminating a plurality of core

sheets, each sheet having a center hole and outer holes connected to the center hole, the laminated core sheets being divided into a predetermined number of blocks, the outer holes of the core sheets being positioned at a same position in each block and shifted block by block by a predetermined angle around the axial direction, thereby forming air passages skewed block by block relative to the axial direction in the armature core; and the armature core is connected to the shaft by forcibly inserting the shaft into the center holes of the laminated core sheets, as recited in claim 10.

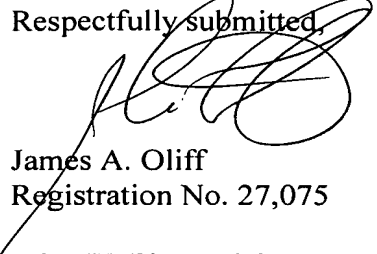
Claim 11 recites subject matter previously recited in claim 1 and is allowable for its dependency on claim 1.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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